KAZOMI TOHNO

遠野一実

cm0

Centimeter zero

cm.0:

CENTIMETER ZERO

WHERE COULD HE HAVE SEEN US
I THINK HE'S SEEN US TOGETHER SOMEWHERE
I
A PROFESSOR
HASUMI
A STUDENT
WE TAKE THE SAME TRAIN LIVE IN THE SAME APARTMENT BUILDING THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US? A MATTER OF METERS
SUPERMARKET

THE PATTERNS OF OUR LIVES OVERLAP TOGETHER IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
HUH?
UH— NO. THAT ONE'S NO GOOD!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS STUFF SO WELL...?
IT SHOULD BE HEAVIER...
THIS ONE'S GOOD—
I MUST SEEM LIKE A DUMMY TO HIM.
MISTER! YOOHOO MISTER!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN LIVING BY YOURSELF SENSEI?

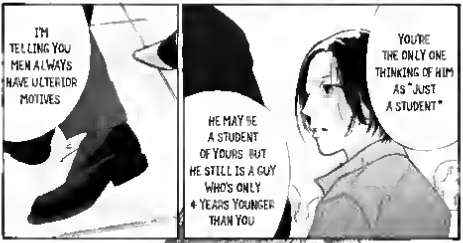
HUH?
NO. YOU MISUNDERSTAND. THIS WOMAN HAS A FIANCÉ.
OH MY. A DOUBLE-TIMER?!!
HERE'S ONE FOR YOUR MISSUS
HUH?
TRY OUR NEW PRODUCT! GO ON, JUST TRY ONE!

UM...
YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU WITH THOSE?
WHAT WAS WRONG WITH THAT LADY?

YOU'RE EXPECTING YOUR BOYFRIEND OR SOMETHING?
HUFF HUFF
HUFF
MAYBE...
YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO BUY A LOT, SENSEI...
UKUMPA
JUST BECAUSE HE WAS SIMPLY LOOKING OUT FOR ME

HASUMI IS A MYSTERIOUS BUT COMFORTABLE GUY TO BE AROUND.
ALRIGHTY THEN. SHOULD I MAKE SOME FINGER FOOD?
OH— BUT YOU THINK IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY?
I DON'T HAVE ANY FINGERFOOD.
COFFEE, TEA, OR BEER?
BEER, PLEASE.
GOOD-NIGHT— JUST LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP WITH ANYTHING, ALRIGHT?
TH-THANKS.
IT WAS DELICI-OUS

THAT'S ALL THERE IS BETWEEN HASUMI AND ME BUT WHEN I TELL A GUY FRIEND ABOUT IT
WHAT ARE YOU AN IDIOT?

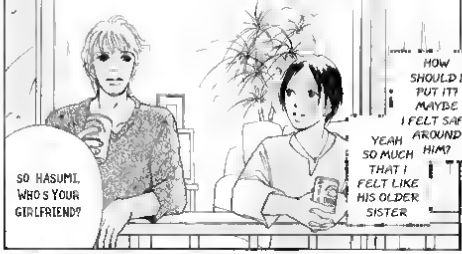

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THINKING OF HIM AS "JUST A STUDENT"
HE MAY BE A STUDENT OF YOURS BUT HE STILL IS A GUY WHO'S ONLY 4 YEARS YOUNGER THAN YOU
I'M TELLING YOU MEN ALWAYS HAVE ULTERIOR MOTIVES

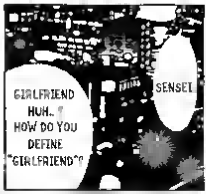
HE'S PROBABLY UNDRESSING YOU IN HIS HEAD THAT'S ALL MEN THINK ABOUT...

YOU MAY BE LIKE THAT BUT HASUMI IS...
...SILLY

FRANKLY IT'S NOT AS IF THE IDEA OF HIM AND I BEING TOGETHER NEVER CROSSED MY MIND

BUT HASUMI NEVER SHOWED EVEN A HINT OF INTEREST


SO HASUMI, WHO'S YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
YEAH SO MUCH THAT I FELT LIKE HIS OLDER SISTER
HOW SHOULD I PUT IT? MAYBE I FELT SAFE AROUND HIM?


GIRLFRIEND HUH..? HOW DO YOU DEFINE "GIRLFRIEND"?
SENSEI

AREN'T YOU ALWAYS HANGING OUT WITH A FEW LADIES?
LIAR
DON'T HAVE ONE.

MAYBE I'M JUST A COLD PERSON

WELL, I DON'T THINK YOU CAN FEEL CLOSE TO SOMEONE JUST BECAUSE YOU SLEEP WITH THAT PERSON.
I REALLY CAN'T STAND THAT KIND OF THINKING.
IF YOU SLEEP WITH A GIRL DOES SHE NECESSARILY BECOME YOUR GIRLFRIEND?

JUST HAPPEN-ED?
YEAH WELL...
IT JUST KIND OF HAPPEN-ED.
BEER
YOU'RE RESPEC-TABLE THOUGH. SENSEI.
YOU'RE EVEN THINKING ABOUT GETTING MARRIED
I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT MY ENGAGEMENT SO DEEPLY
IT WAS A NATURAL PROGRESSION OF EVENTS
WE WENT OUT FOR FOUR YEARS IN COLLEGE AND SO IT JUST KIND OF HAPPENED

CLASS CANCELLED
October 8th
Trial Class English
(Classroom 200)
Professor Sano
Maharu

DINGDONG
WHAT AM I THINKING
LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP WITH ANYTHING
IS SOMETH-ING...
WRONG?

"I FOUND ANOTHER GIRL I LIKE" WAS ALL MY NOW EX-FIANCÈ SAID.
IT'S NOTHING
I JUST GOT DUMPED. THAT'S ALL
SO, FINGER FOOD...
ANY REQUESTS?
DRIP

GOOD TO ME
DON'T BE

AH...
WHAT CAN THIS POSSIBLY MEAN?
WELL, I DON'T THINK YOU CAN FEEL CLOSE TO SOMEONE JUST BECAUSE YOU SLEEP WITH THAT PERSON.
IF YOU SLEEP WITH A GIRL DOES SHE NECESSARILY BECOME YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
HASU...

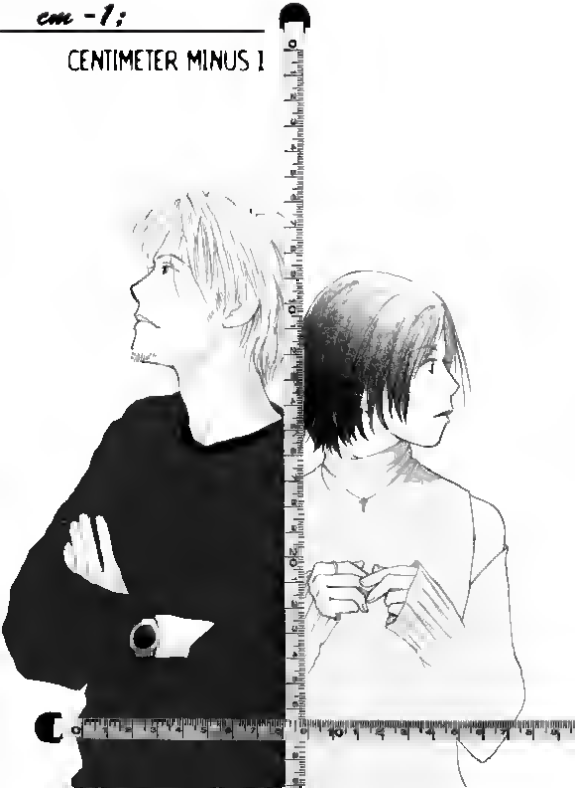
WHEW YOU CAME BACK. I'M RELIEVED
DINGDONG
SO UM, SENSEI...

WAIT---

LET ME SHRINK THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US JUST A LITTLE.

cm -1:

CENTIMETER MINUS 1



PROFESSOR HOW DID YOU...
MS. SANO!! YOU REALLY SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME SOONER
I HEARD THE ENGAGEMENT WAS OFF
I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE WEDDING...
YOU WERE BOTH MY STUDENTS AND... WHAT WENT WRONG?
UH... UM— WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE SAID TO ASK YOU WHAT HAPPENED
MY NAME. SANO MIHARU MY JOB. COLLEGE ENGLISH PROFESSOR.
...MARRIAGE. ONE FAILED ATTEMPT

HIS REASON FOR BREAKING THE ENGAGEMENT OFF WAS PROBABLY...
HASUMI!
PLEASE READ THE NEXT PASSAGE.
PSST HASUMI!
TODAY IS JANUARY 14TH SO NUMBER 114...
THAT HE BELIEVED THE RUMOR THAT I HAD ENTERED A STRANGE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GUY HASUMI WHO LIVED IN MY APARTMENT BUILDING
HASUMI?
I DIDN'T HEAR

HE'S BEEN AVOIDING ME ALL ALONG EVER SINCE THAT HAPPENED

I CAN'T BELIEVE I DID THAT KIND OF THING EVEN THOUGH I HAD JUST BEEN DUMPED
IF YOU SLEEP WITH A GIRL DOES SHE NECESSARILY BECOME YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
WELL I DON'T THINK YOU CAN FEEL CLOSE TO SOMEONE JUST BECAUSE YOU SLEEP WITH THAT PERSON
YEAH HASUMI MIGHT HAVE ALREADY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT

CAN I COPY YOUR NOTES FROM ENGLISH LIT?
HEY, HASUMI...
WHY DID I... DO THAT
OH
OH, SOME HIGH SCHOOL GIRL JUST SHOVED THIS AT ME THIS MORNING...
YOU DIDN'T READ IT
WHAT'S THIS?
MMM...
MERCI!
GIRLS WHO DON'T EVEN KNOW ME THROWING THEMSELVES AT ME
I HATE THAT SORT OF THING
WHAT SORT?

HEY —!
MAYBE YOU'RE GAY HASUMI...?
THEY'RE TRYING TO GET CLOSE BECAUSE THEY WANT TO KNOW YOU.
YOU'RE JUST NOT INTO GIRLS, ARE YOU?

GIRLS HUH...
I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND 'EM AT ALL.

SHOULD I SAY IT FEELS LIKE I HAD A DEVOTED DOG WHO SUDDENLY WOULDN'T COME NEAR ME..
WHAT'S THIS UNEASY FEELING..
YEAH THAT KIND OF FEELING..

HARRY POTTER 2 PLEASE.
TWO TICKETS?
PARDON?
ONE, PLEASE.
THAT'S ENOUGH ALREADY!
WAIT!
PLEASE

HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING ON ACTING LIKE AN INNOCENT VICTIM?
YES?
YEAH. I'M SORRY!
THAT'S ALL!!
YEAH--- THAT'S RIGHT I'M YOUR SENSEI!!
HOW TERRIBLE FOR YOU THAT SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD HAPPEN WITH A SENSEI!!
... SENSEI ---
COKE AND POPCORN, PLEASE!
JEEZ... WHAT IS SHE MUMBLING TO HERSELF...
HEY, HASUMI!?
PUT PUT

THANK YOU~
OH!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
HASUMI.

WHIP
SO, DO YOU WANT TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN?
I GOT DIVORCED SINCE THEN.

I'VE BEEN ACTING REALLY STRANGELY LATELY
HUH??
EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING...
OH. A FRIEND OF YOURS?
HURK--
OH!
NO! SHE'S MY GIRLFRIEND.
THE MOVIE'S ABOUT TO START!

SANO THIS IS THE MOTHER OF A YOUNG STUDENT I USED TO TUTOR
THIS IS SANO WE GO TO THE SAME COLLEGE.
!!
WHAT IF ...!
NO. IT'S NOT THAT...
IT WAS WRONG OF ME TO BREAK IN. I KNOW.
EHH?
THE ONE YOU CAN'T FEEL CLOSE TO?
WAS THAT PERSON

IF I THINK ABOUT IT NOW... THAT LADY... SHE MUST'VE BEEN JUST LONELY.

I ATE DINNER AT HER HOUSE SO MANY TIMES. BUT I NEVER SAW HER HUSBAND, NOT ONCE.

WHEN I WAS TUTORING HER KID AS A PART-TIME JOB.

STOP... THAT'S ENOUGH, HASUMI KUN

SHE WAS ALWAYS TELLING ME THEY WERE GOING TO SPLIT BUT SHE NEVER TOLD ME SHE HAD FEELINGS FOR...

SENSEI ?

I DID THE SAME THING TO YOU...

I...

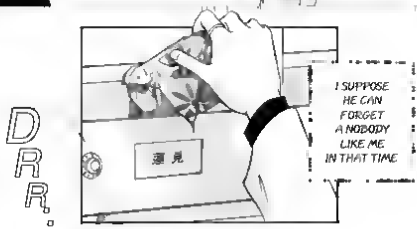
MAYBE IT WAS JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE SO KIND TO ME AT THAT MOMENT...
MAYBE I JUST NEEDED SOMEONE AND ANYONE WOULD HAVE DONE.
I WAS FEELING SAD AFTER HE DUMPED ME...
"ANYONE WOULD HAVE DONE," SENSEI??
COULD IT HAVE BEEN... HASUMI.
WERE YOU JUST BEING GOOD TO ME BECAUSE I'M YOUR "SENSEI"?
DON'T CALL ME SENSEI...
FIRST AND FOREMOST, I'M A WOMAN IN HER PRIME...

I'M SORRY ...
IT'S NOT YOU. IT'S JUST THAT I...
DID YOU THINK WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US WOULDN'T TURN INTO ANYTHING BECAUSE I HAD A FIANCE?
WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING ON LIVING YOUR WHOLE LIFE AS A HERMIT WITH NO RELATIONSHIPS AT ALL?

I JUST THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T THE TYPE OF WOMAN WHO WOULD USE YOUR "WOMANHOOD" AS A WAY TO WIN A DISCUSSION WITH A MAN. THAT'S ALL.

SOON IT WILL BE THE END OF JANUARY AND SO THE FINAL EXAMS.

AFTER THE FINALS THE STUDENTS WILL BE ON LONG VACATION UNTIL APRIL.



DRR.

* NOTE THE DRAWER READS "HASUMI."

KAZOMI TOHNO

遠野一実

cm0

Centimeter zero

cm-2;

CENTIMETER MINUS 2

* The restaurant sign reads "Restaurant Hasumi"

* The menu reads clockwise from top left Anchovy Meal * "Spicy Seafood Hotpot "Baked Atka Mackerel * "Udon *

I WAS FEELING SAD AFTER HE DUMPED ME MAYBE I JUST NEEDED SOMEONE AND ANYONE WOULD HAVE DONE
HUH?
MAYBE IT WAS JUST BECAUSE YOU WERE SO KIND TO ME AT THAT MOMENT
SO...
I HAVE TO FILE THE GRADES FROM THE FINAL EXAMS AND HELP OUT WITH THE OPENING CEREMONY
NOT TO MENTION THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEW SEMESTER...
2 February
I CAN'T COME HOME THIS TIME EITHER, MOM!

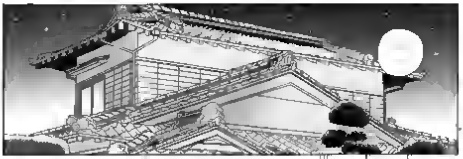
THE COLLEGE STUDENTS ARE ON SPRING VACATION.
BUT A HUMBLE LECTURER LIKE ME HAS NO SUCH LUXURY! I CANNOT GO HOME!
IN ANY CASE, JUST FINISH UP RIGHT AWAY AND COME HOME SO YOU CAN APOLOGIZE TO YOUR FATHER
HE'S BEEN HAVING A HARD TIME DEALING WITH YOUR BROKEN ENGAGEMENT
SANO MIHARU AGE 24
THAT IS TO SAY MARRIAGE. ONE FAILED ATTEMPT
"ANYONE WOULD HAVE DONE," SENSEI?!!

* Note: Hasumi's learning to drive. For each lesson, he must stamp the card with his signature stamp to show that he had a lesson with that particular instructor.

HUH?
OHHH...
!
I'M HOME!
WELCOME HOME, HASUMI.

UH-HUH—, WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME THAT AFTER YOU GET YOUR LICENSE.
I'M GOING TO DRIVE HERE NEXT TIME.
I'LL WORK TO COMPENSATE FOR THE DRIVING SCHOOL
MOM WHO'S GOING TO CARRY ALL THESE GROCERIES—?
IT'S AN EYE I INHERITED FROM YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS
OH— THAT'S ONE GOOD-LOOKING DAIKON.
YOU AT LEAST HAVE AN EYE FOR INGREDIENTS...
WAS THAT IDEA A LITTLE...
OKAY— ADD TWO DAIKONS!
158
YOU MEAN THE GIRL WHO OWNS THAT HANDKERCHIEF?
BUT YOU KNOW... THERE ARE SOME WOMEN WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO SELECT THEIR VEGETABLES.
UH...

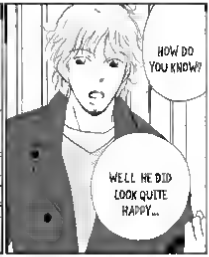
THE ONE THAT WAS IN YOUR JEAN POCKET HASUMI.
WAIT. WHAT?
HANDKERCHIEF? WHAT DO YOU...?
you dropped you handkerchief, so I'm returning it. Sam
N-NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.....!
HA HA
HA
THE HANDKER-CHIEF!
THIS IS PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SPOKEN TO ME ABOUT A GIRL, HASUMI.....
AH!

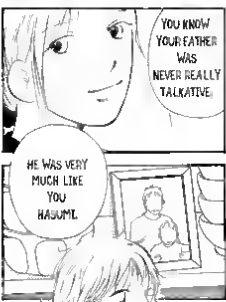


* Note: "Ne-chan" is what younger siblings call an older sister.

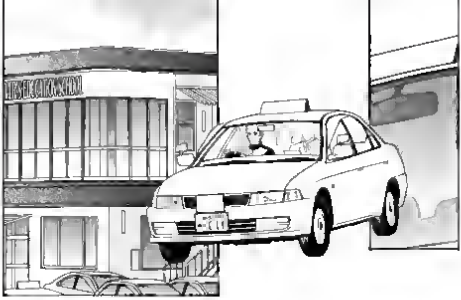
* The restaurant sign reads "Restaurant Hasumi"

WHEN SOMETHING GREAT HAPPENS INSTEAD OF COMING TO A PLACE LIKE THIS YOU GO TELL THE PERSON WHO IS MOST DEAR TO YOU
LIKE YOUR WIFE... OR YOUR GIRLFRIEND


HOW DO YOU KNOW?
WELL HE DID LOOK QUITE HAPPY...


YOU KNOW YOUR FATHER WAS NEVER REALLY TALKATIVE.
HE WAS VERY MUCH LIKE YOU HAJUME.

HMM
WHEN THAT PERSON SEES HIS HAPPY FACE, SHE'LL BE VERY HAPPY TOO.
YOUR LATE FATHER WAS LIKE THAT



EXAM RESULTS
ROARR

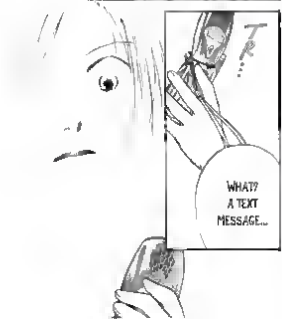
HUH?
MEGUMI?
MY NUMBER'S THERE!!

WHAT? WELL IF I PASSED THE ROAD TEST THE WRITTEN TEST WILL BE A SNAP!
MEGUMI? I DID IT I PASSED THE ROAD TEST!
OKAMOTO?
I PROMISED TO TAKE HER FOR A RIDE WHEN I GOT MY DRIVER'S LICENSE.
HEH HEH HEH
WAS THAT YOUR GIRLFRIEND ON THE PHONE?
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION! LONG TIME, NO SEE!
HASUMI?!

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU HASUMI?
I SEE...

NE-CHAN, YOUR PHONE'S RINGING...
GIVE ME THAT!

SNATCH!

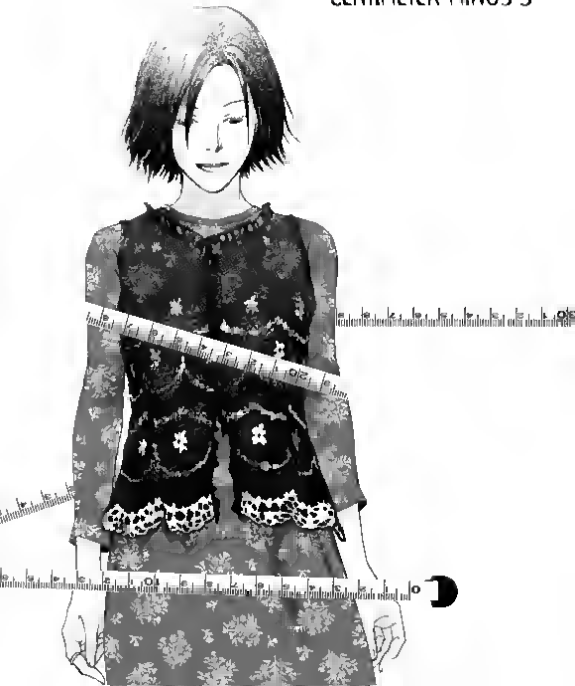

WHAT? A TEXT MESSAGE...

WHEW OKAY.

THE JOKES ON ME THIS TIME (^^)

cm -3;

CENTIMETER MINUS 3



PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS STILL HAVE WARM HEARTS
THINGS THAT I THOUGHT ABOUT DURING SPRING BREAK BACK IN SHIMONOSEKI
SHIMONOSEKI'S DELICACY FUGU (PUFFER FISH).
OH MY... MRS. SANO!
HELLO
MIHARU YOU'RE BACK FROM COLLEGE? IS IT SPRING VACATION?
I HEARD YOUR ENGAGEMENT WAS CANCELLED.
OH! MIHARU!
I TEACH AT A COLLEGE IN TOKYO.
THAT WAS TERRIBLE WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU MIHARU
THAT'S...
FOR SOME REASON EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT MY BROKEN ENGAGEMENT

I HEARD THAT YOU HAD A FLING WITH AN OLD DEAN AT SCHOOL. IS THAT WHY YOU BROKE OFF THE ENGAGEMENT?
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS WRONG WITH ALL OF THEM.
WOW—
IT'S BEEN SOOO LONG. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, MIHARU
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING!
HA HA HA HA HA
IT'S ALL JUST RUMORS!
I—
I KNOW THAT.
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY COME UP WITH THAT STUFF
JUST LET THEM SAY WHAT THEY WANT
MOM...

KYAA

WHA?
MRS. SANO!!
HELLO!
OHHH
MIHARU! I SAW HIM!
YEAH! IT'S GOOD NEWS, NOT SOMETHING TO HIDE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SAW HIM?"
DON'T PLAY INNOCENT! OKAY?
THE GUY WHO DROVE BY A LITTLE WHILE AGO WITH YOUR FATHER IN HIS CAR. HE'S YOUR NEW BOYFRIEND. RIGHT?
THE PLATE NUMBER OF THE CAR WAS WHAT GAVE HIS HOMETOWN AWAY.
I KNOW. AND IF WE CONSIDER HOW FAR HE'S DRIVEN TO BE HERE...
SORRY?!

HEY...
NO, NO NO.
ANYWAY...IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN OLD MR. SANO LOOK SO HAPPY.
HOW DARE THEY!! EVERYWHERE RUMORS WITHOUT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE!
HERE.
HAVE ANOTHER
SANO
775

NO, MR. SANO. I'VE ALREADY HAD ENOUGH.
NO, I INSIST! AS A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE.

ARE YOU OKAY? MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET CHECKED OUT AT THE HOSPITAL.
NO, I'LL BE ALRIGHT. IT JUST FEELS LIKE I STRAINED MY BACK.
FOR A YOUNG MAN WHO'S NEVER MET ME TO STOP AND HELP AND EVEN BRING ME HOME LIKE THIS.
OW!

WELL, I'M REALLY THE LUCKY ONE. TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH A LOCAL.
KOK
TELL ME ABOUT IT. I WAS LUCKY TO FALL OVER IN FRONT OF SUCH A GOOD PERSON LIKE YOU
I WAS JUST SHOCKED TO SEE SOMEONE TOPPLE OVER IN FRONT OF MY CAR. THE LIGHT HAD TURNED GREEN, SO YOU ALMOST BUMPED INTO MY CAR.
HA HA HA

WELL, I'LL BE ON MY WAY NOW.
IT'S NOT THAT
NO IT'S OKAY SIR.
WHAT'S WRONG? IS IT BECAUSE YOU MISS THAT WOMAN YOU WERE TRYING TO CALL BEFORE?
JUST STAY ONE NIGHT! TOMORROW WE'LL GO SEARCHING FOR HER TOGETHER.
ARE THERE A LOT OF SANOS IN SHIMONOSEKI?
I'M HOME!
ARE YOU HOME, DAD?
YES, I AM!
HEY!
YEAH YEAH THEY'RE HOME! MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER.
THIS MAN JUST SAVED MY LIFE!

HASUMI?!
I'M GUESSING YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?
JU-
JUST A SECOND!
WHY IS HASUMI IN SHIMONOSEKI?
WH-WHY?

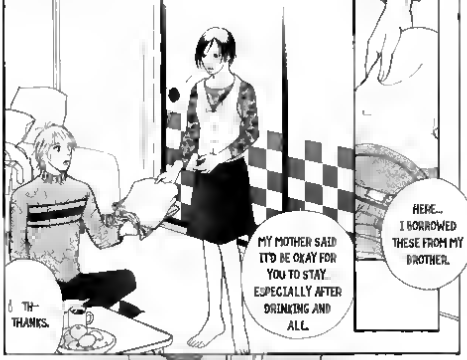
TH, THIS IS YOUR HOUSE, SENSEI?!
HOW DID YOU END UP HERE, HASUMI?!
HOW DOES IT BECOME THAT?!
SMALL TOWNS ARE LIKE THAT... IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT IN SMALL TOWNS...
THEY WERE ALREADY SAYING DOWN AT THE GROCERY STORE THAT YOU WERE MY NEW BOYFRIEND!
THIS IS A MESS! THERE'S ALREADY A RUMOR FLYING ABOUT...
YOU'RE LYING!
CAN IT POSSIBLY BE THAT...
UH-OH...
THAT WAS ABOUT YOU? MIHARU—! YOU'RE THE OLDER WOMAN, THE PROFESSOR WHO JUMPED THIS BASTARD?

I HAD A LITTLE
HASUMI!!
WHOA..
YOU ARE JUST REALLY...!!
MR. SANO, LET ME EXPLAIN..
EEEEP
QUIET! I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO BE CALLED "FATHER" BY YOU!
BRING THE SUSHI KNIFE!!!!
YOU, STOP IT!

HASUMI, YOU'RE AN IDIOT~~
I'M HOME!
WHAT'S WRONG, MOM?
THE NEIGHBORS ARE GATHERED IN FRONT OF OUR DOOR.
OH... MY YOUNGER BROTHER.
H...HI.
WHAT? NE-CHAN BROUGHT HER NEW BOYFRIEND HOME?
NO! HASUMI IS JUST A STUDENT AT MY UNIVERSITY
A COLLEGE STUDENT? WHAT YEAR?
IT'LL BE MY SECOND YEAR.
SO, HE'S THE SAME YEAR AS ME IN SCHOOL?
WOW. YOU'RE REALLY ROBBIN' THE CRADLE, NE-CHAN.
THWAP!

HE'S A NICE BOY, ISN'T HE? THAT HASUMI.
LYING. I MEAN. YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR DAD, THAT WAY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU'RE JUST AS CLUMSY AS ALWAYS, AREN'T YOU?
REALLY
I MEAN...
WELL, MOM, IT'S DIFFERENT WITH HASUMI.
MMM... HOW DO I PUT THIS...
ABOUT YOUR FATHER.
I THINK HE WRONGED YOU WITH THAT REACTION.
IT'S NOT...
MINARU.
IT'S OKAY NOT TO RUSH TO CONCLUSIONS

WITH THE BROKEN ENGAGEMENT...
YOUR FATHER KNEW YOU WERE DATING SOMEONE.
AND IT WAS HE WHO WENT TO THE BOY'S PARENTS AND MADE THE ENGAGEMENT...
SIGH
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR TIME FINDING HAPPINESS? MIHARU. THE ROAD AHEAD IS LONG.
THAT'S WHY HE WAS SO UPSET
WHEN IT FELL THROUGH.
MOM...


HERE... I BORROWED THESE FROM MY BROTHER.
MY MOTHER SAID IT'D BE OKAY FOR YOU TO STAY... ESPECIALLY AFTER DRINKING AND ALL.
TH-THANKS.

WHY DID YOU COME?
WHY?
BY THE TIME I REALIZED HOW FAR I'D GONE, I WAS IN HIROSHIMA EATING OYSTERS.
AND THEN I THOUGHT: "SENSEI'S HOMETOWN, YAMAGUCHI, IS AROUND HERE. ISN'T IT? GREAT."
DON'T YOU LIVE IN CHIBA? THIS IS SHIMONOSEKI!
WELL...
YES?
I HAD A DEAL WITH MY MOM THAT IF I GOT MY LICENSE I COULD BORROW HER CAR AND GO SOMEWHERE...
ONCE THE IDEA OF GOING SOMEWHERE GRABBED ME, I JUST WANTED TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR: ZOOM, ZOOM~ VROOM, VROOM~ ZOOM, ZOO VROOM, VROOM.

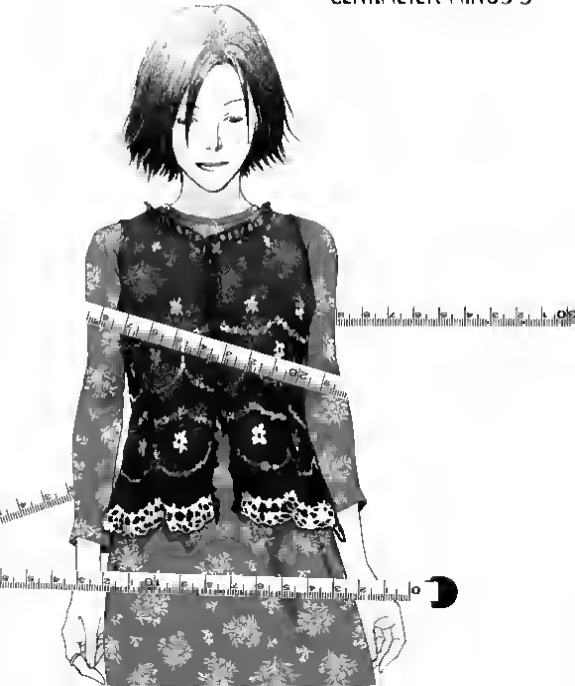
A-ARE YOU...
ANGRY WITH ME?
WHAT? NO...
ACTUALLY...
FOR THINKING ABOUT ME.
AND SHOWING YOUR FACE TO ME IN A LONG TIME.
HOW CAN I PUT IT?
I'M RELIEVED
PST
PST
PST
PST

SORRY? FUGU?
BUT WHY DO I FEEL RELIEVED?!
WANT TO GO GET SOME FUGU TOMORROW? (SINCE YOU'RE HERE AND ALL.)

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR TIME FINDING HAPPINESS?
WELL, MAYBE AT SOME POINT...

cm -3;

CENTIMETER MINUS 3



KYAA
I HEARD THAT YOU HAD A FLING WITH AN OLD DEAN AT SCHOOL. IS THAT WHY YOU BROKE OFF THE ENGAGEMENT?
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS WRONG WITH ALL OF THEM.
HOW
IT'S BEEN SOOO LONG. I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, MIHARU!
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK YOU SOMETHING!
HA HA HA HA HA
I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY COME UP WITH THAT STUFF
IT'S ALL JUST RUMORS!
I—
I KNOW THAT.
JUST LET THEM SAY WHAT THEY WANT.
MOM...
PEOPLE IN RURAL AREAS STILL HAVE WARM HEARTS.
THINGS THAT I THOUGHT ABOUT DURING SPRING BREAK BACK IN SHIMONOSEKI
SHIMONOSEKI'S DELICACY FUGU (PUFFER FISH)
OH MY MRS SANDI
HELLO
MIHARU YOU'RE BACK FROM COLLEGE? IS IT SPRING VACATION?
OH! MIHARU?!
I HEARD YOUR ENGAGEMENT WAS CANCELLED.
I TEACH AT A COLLEGE IN TOKYO
THAT WAS TERRIBLE WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, MIHARU
THAT'S...
FOR SOME REASON EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT MY BROKEN ENGAGEMENT

HEY..
ANYWAY, IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN OLD MR. SANO LOOK SO HAPPY.
NO NO NO
HOW DARE THEY!! EVERYWHERE, RUMORS WITHOUT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE!
HERE,
SANO
HAVE ANOTHER

WHA?
MRS. SANO!!
HELLO!
OHH!
MIHARU! I SAW HIM!
YEAH! IT'S GOOD NEWS, NOT SOMETHING TO HIDE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SAW HIM?"
DON'T PLAY INNOCENT! OKAY?
THE GUY WHO DROVE BY A LITTLE WHILE AGO WITH YOUR FATHER IN HIS CAR. HE'S YOUR NEW BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?
THE PLATE NUMBER OF THE CAR WAS WHAT GAVE HIS HOMETOWN AWAY.
I KNOW AND IF WE CONSIDER HOW FAR HE'S DRIVEN TO BE HERE...
SORRY?!

NO, MR SANO, I'VE ALREADY HAD ENOUGH.
NO, I INSIST! AS A TOKEN OF GRATITUDE.
FOR A YOUNG MAN WHO'S NEVER MET ME TO STOP AND HELP AND EVEN BRING ME HOME LIKE THIS.
OW!
ARE YOU OKAY? MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET CHECKED OUT AT THE HOSPITAL.
NO, I'LL BE ALRIGHT. IT JUST FEELS LIKE I STRAINED MY BACK.
I WAS JUST SHOCKED TO SEE SOMEONE TOPPLE OVER IN FRONT OF MY CAR. THE LIGHT HAD TURNED GREEN, SO YOU ALMOST BUMPED INTO MY CAR.
HA HA HA
WELL, I'M REALLY THE LUCKY ONE, TO BECOME FRIENDS WITH A LOCAL.
KOK
TELL ME ABOUT IT... I WAS LUCKY TO FALL OVER IN FRONT OF SUCH A GOOD PERSON LIKE YOU.
WELL, I'LL BE ON MY WAY NOW
WHAT'S WRONG? IS IT BECAUSE YOU MISS THAT WOMAN YOU WERE TRYING TO CALL BEFORE?
IT'S NOT THAT.
JUST STAY ONE NIGHT! TOMORROW, WE'LL GO SEARCHING FOR HER TOGETHER.
NO, IT'S OKAY, SIR
ARE THERE A LOT OF SANOS IN SHIMONOSEKI?
I'M HOME!
ARE YOU HOME, DAD?
YES, I AM!
HEY!
SHHFT
YEAH, YEAH, THEY'RE HOME! MY WIFE AND DAUGHTER.
THIS MAN JUST SAVED MY LIFE!

HOW DID YOU END UP HERE, HASUMI!?
TH, THIS IS YOUR HOUSE, SENSEI!?

HOW DOES IT BECOME THAT?
SMALL TOWNS ARE LIKE THAT... IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT IN SMALL TOWNS

THEY WERE ALREADY SAYING DOWN AT THE GROCERY STORE THAT YOU WERE MY NEW BOYFRIEND!
YOU'RE LYING!
THIS IS A MESS! THERE'S ALREADY A RUMOR FLYING ABOUT...

THAT WAS ABOUT YOU? MIHARU—! YOU'RE THE OLDER WOMAN, THE PROFESSOR WHO JUMPED THIS BASTARD?

UH- OH-
CAN IT POSSIBLY BE THAT...

HASUMI!?
I'M GUESSING YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?
JU-
JUST A SECOND!
WHY IS HASUMI IN SHIMONOSEKI?
WH- WHY?

I'M HOME!

HASUMI, YOU'RE AN IDIOT.....

H...HI.

OH... MY YOUNGER BROTHER.

WHAT'S WRONG, MOM?

THE NEIGHBORS ARE GATHERED IN FRONT OF OUR DOOR.

SO HE'S THE SAME YEAR AS ME IN SCHOOL?

WOW. YOU'RE REALLY ROBBIN' THE CRADLE, NE-CHAN.

A COLLEGE STUDENT? WHAT YEAR?

IT'LL BE MY SECOND YEAR.

WHAT? NE-CHAN BROUGHT HER NEW BOYFRIEND HOME?

NO! HASUMI IS JUST A STUDENT AT MY UNIVERSITY.

I WAS A LITTLE DRUNK AND...

HASUMI!

WHOA..

YOU ARE JUST REALLY...!!

MR. SANO... LET ME EXPLAIN...

QUIET! I DON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO BE CALLED "FATHER" BY YOU!

BRING THE SUSHI KNIFE!!!!

YOU, STOP IT!

EEEEP

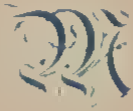
HERE

REALLY
YOU'RE JUST AS CLUMSY AS ALWAYS, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
LYING, I MEAN. YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR DAD, THAT WAY
HE'S A NICE BOY. ISN'T HE? THAT HASUMI.
WELL, MOM, IT'S DIFFERENT WITH HASUMI.
MMM... HOW DO I PUT THIS...
I MEAN...
MIHARU,
IT'S OKAY NOT TO RUSH TO CONCLUSIONS
IT'S NOT...
ABOUT YOUR FATHER.
I THENK HE WRONGED YOU WITH THAT REACTION.
WITH THE BROKEN ENGAGEMENT...
YOUR FATHER KNEW YOU WERE DATING SOMEONE.
AND IT WAS HE WHO WENT TO THE BOY'S PARENTS AND MADE THE ENGAGEMENT...
SIGH
THAT'S WHY HE WAS SO UPSET
WHEN IT FELL THROUGH.
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR TIME FINDING HAPPINESS? MIHARU. THE ROAD AHEAD IS LONG.
MOM...

HERE... I BORROWED THESE FROM MY BROTHER.
MY MOTHER SAID IT'D BE OKAY FOR YOU TO STAY ESPECIALLY AFTER DRINKING AND ALL.
TH-THANKS.
WHY?
WHY DID YOU COME?
WELL...
YES?
I HAD A DEAL WITH MY MOM THAT IF I GOT MY LICENSE I COULD BORROW HER CAR AND GO SOMEWHERE...
ONCE THE IDEA OF GOING SOMEWHERE GRABBED ME, I JUST WANTED TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR: ZOOM, ZOOM-VROOM, VROOM-
DON'T YOU LIVE IN CHIBA? THIS IS SHIMONOSEKI!
BY THE TIME I REALIZED HOW FAR I'D GONE, I WAS IN HIROSHIMA EATING OYSTERS.
AND THEN I THOUGHT "SENSEI'S HOMETOWN, YAMAGUCHI, IS AROUND HERE, ISN'T IT? GREAT"
A-ARE YOU...
ANGRY WITH ME?
WHAT? NO...
ACTUALLY...
FOR THINKING ABOUT ME.
AND SHOWING YOUR FACE TO ME IN A LONG TIME...
HOW CAN I PUT IT?
I'M RELIEVED
PBT
PBT
PBT
PBT

SORRY? FUGU?
BUT... WHY DO I FEEL RELIEVED?
WANT TO GO GET SOME FUGU TOMORROW? (SINCE YOU'RE HERE AND ALL.)

WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR TIME FINDING HAPPINESS?
WELL... MAYBE AT SOME POINT



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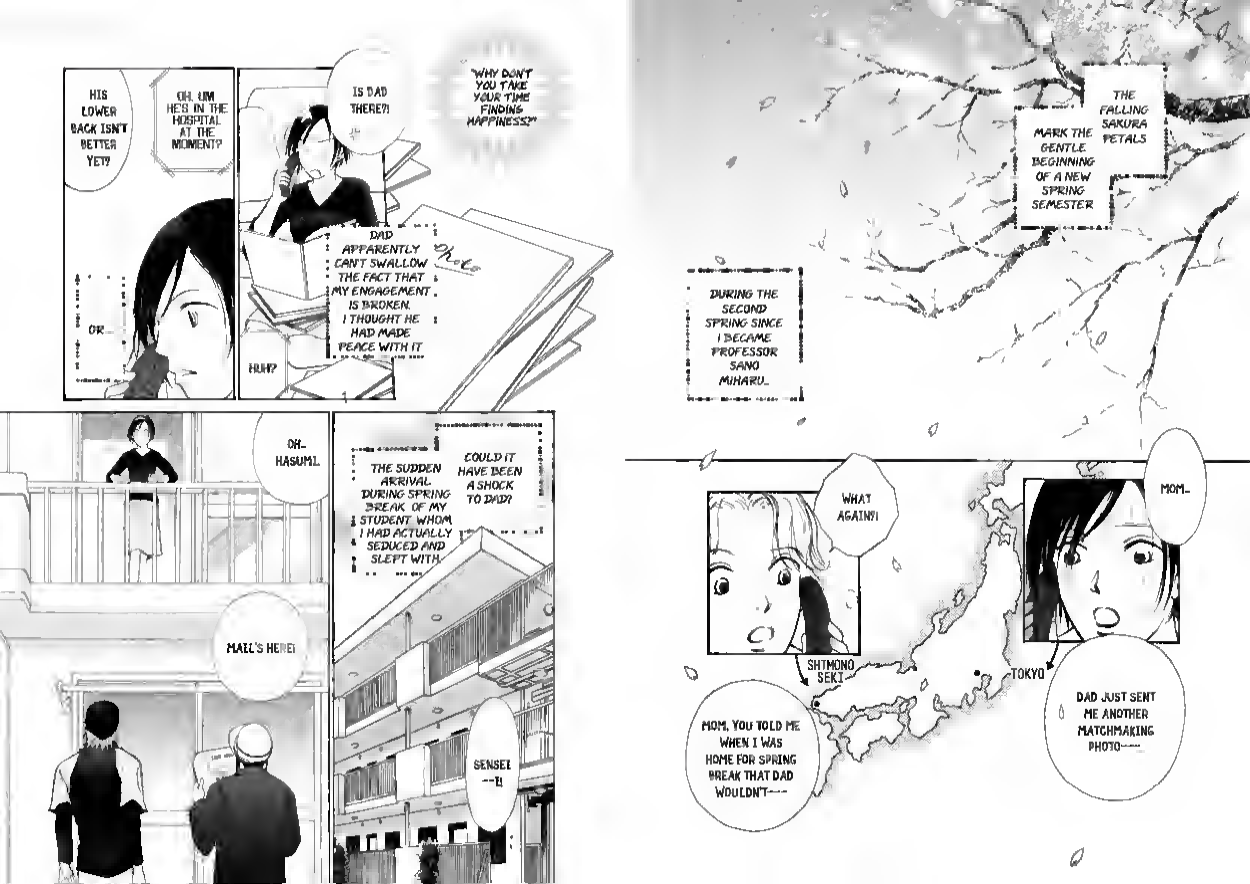
CENTIMETER MINUS 4


HIS LOWER BACK ISN'T BETTER YET?
OH, UM HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL AT THE MOMENT?
OR...
IS DAD THERE?!
"WHY DON'T YOU TAKE YOUR TIME FINDING HAPPINESS?"
DAD APPARENTLY CAN'T SWALLOW THE FACT THAT MY ENGAGEMENT IS BROKEN. I THOUGHT HE HAD MADE PEACE WITH IT
HUH?
OH... HASUMI.
MAEL'S HERE!
THE SUDDEN ARRIVAL DURING SPRING BREAK OF MY STUDENT WHOM I HAD ACTUALLY SEDUCED AND SLEPT WITH...
COULD IT HAVE BEEN A SHOCK TO DAD?
SENSEI ---!!
THE FALLING SAKURA PETALS
MARK THE GENTLE BEGINNING OF A NEW SPRING SEMESTER
DURING THE SECOND SPRING SINCE I BECAME PROFESSOR SANO MIHARU...
WHAT AGAIN?!
MOM...
SHIMONO SEKI
TOKYO
MOM. YOU TOLD ME WHEN I WAS HOME FOR SPRING BREAK THAT DAD WOULDN'T---
DAD JUST SENT ME ANOTHER MATCHMAKING PHOTO----

YEP JUST FOR A BIT
ARE YOU GOING OUT?
HELLO MISS. SANO I PRESUME? HOW DO YOU DO?
THAT'S TOO BAD... I WAS GOING TO TEACH YOU MY NEW CULINARY CREATION...
SORRY... MAYBE NEXT TIME?
OH, NO--- I WAS ON MY WAY HOME.
I APOLOGIZE FOR MAKING YOU COME RIGHT TO THE DOOR ON OUR FIRST MEETING.
IT'S NOT SHONEN JUMP IS IT?
YOU SEE, MY FATHER
HA HA HA HA
IS YOUR FATHER...
ANGRY WITH ME, BY ANY CHANCE?
WANT ME TO BRING THIS UP TO YOU? IT WON'T FIT IN THE MAIL BOX
NO, IT'S THE "WEEKLY MATCHMAKING MAGAZINE!"
SORRY?
YOU'RE ALMOST HERE?
HELLO, THIS IS SANO
THINKS I SHOULD JUST GET MARRIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE MARRYING ANY MAN WOULD DO
REALLY...

YOU KNOW TOKUDA FOOLED AROUND DURING SPRING BREAK, DON'T YOU?!
I KNEW IT WHEN HE STARTED TAKING HIS CELL PHONE EVEN INTO HIS BATHS!!
HUH?
GRIP
THAT'S IT WE'RE THROUGH!
IT'S NOT LIKE WE WERE SERIOUS ABOUT EACH OTHER TO BEGIN WITH ANYWAY
...SHE IS OLDER BY QUITE A FEW YEARS.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TOO MUCH? SHE'S SIX YEARS OLDER THAN HIM
HUH?
I'M GONNA GO OUT WITH HASUMI!

I'VE REALLY LOOKED FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.
photo
OH...
SPLAASH
LOOK WHO'S TALKING?
WHAT? HE'S DESPICABLE! DON'T YOU AGREE, HASUMI?
YOU'RE THE WORST!

ETSUKO, I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH BE RIGHT BACK
OKAY. I'M GOING TO TAKE MY TIME TALKING WITH MIHARU. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER SINCE COLLEGE.
YES, YES. TALK AS LONG AS YOU'D LIKE—
CAN YOU PLEASE BRING ME MY CHANGE OF CLOTHES—.
PEEK
ETSUKO, BATH TOWEL—
THERE HE GOES AGAIN!
HA HA HA
AGE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT
HE'S DEFINITELY MATURE—I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE HE'S 10 OR SO YEARS OLDER...
WHAT I MEAN IS IT'S LONELY NOT HAVING A BOYFRIEND AND...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU TWO WEREN'T SERIOUS?
OGAWA
I ALWAYS THOUGHT HASUMI WAS A BETTER CATCH FOR ME ANYWAY!
WHAT ABOUT ME? WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, DO YOU HASUMI?
HUH?
DO WOMEN
HAVE RELATIONSHIPS FOR ONLY THAT REASON?
YOU. YOU ANNOY ME.

BUT I'M THINKING OF A CERTAIN FACE
I DON'T KNOW WHY...

HERE?
I'LL GET OUT HERE.
OH!

MIHARU
LET US TAKE YOU HOME. IT'S LATE
IT'S OKAY. IT'S RIGHT THERE

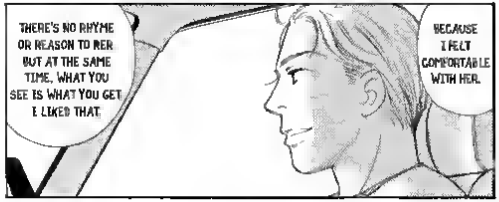
SKREECH

REALLY... SHE'S TOO BLUNT SHE TALKS WITHOUT THINKING.
HA HA HA

THE MISUNDERSTANDING WILL ONLY GROW WORSE THE LONGER I STAY!
ETSUKO IS PRYING INTO SOMETHING, ISN'T SHE?
IT WOULD'VE BEEN AWESOME IF YOU STAYED THE NIGHT, MIHARU

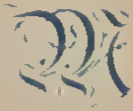
HEY!!
WHY DID YOU MARRY THAT KIND OF PERSON THEN?

DIRECTOR: THIS IS WRONG! IF YOU DO IT THAT WAY THERE WILL BE PROBLEMS. GOT IT?!
SHE NEVER PAID ME ANY MIND, EVEN WHEN I WAS HER EMPLOYER.


THERE'S NO RHYME OR REASON TO HER. BUT AT THE SAME TIME, WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET. I LIKED THAT.
BECAUSE I FELT COMFORTABLE WITH HER.

* MEDICINE FOR STOMACH ACHE

EVEN WHEN IT'S RIGHT HERE BEFORE MY EYES--
---UM, DID YO FINISH COOKING THAT NEW CULINARY CREATION YOU MENTIONED AT LUNCH TIME?
I WOLFED IT ALL DOWN--.
PIPI
"MISUNDER -STANDING" MY BUTT--.
SHE'S HOPELESS!



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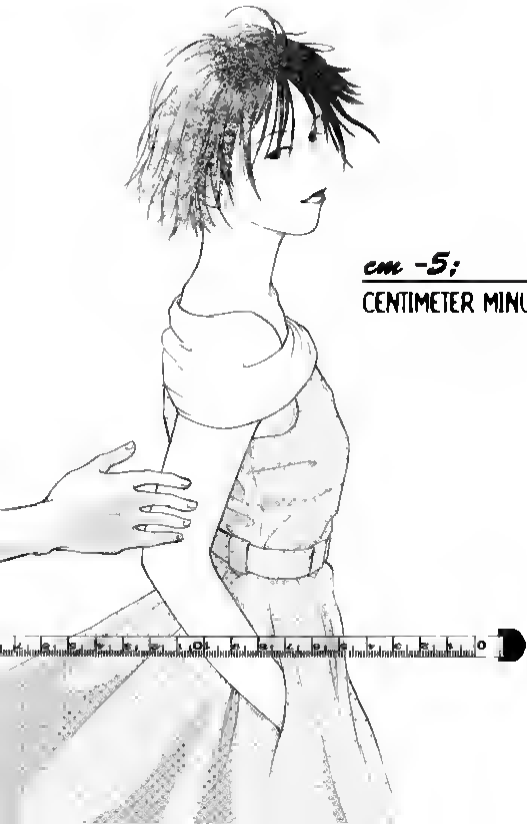


cm -5;

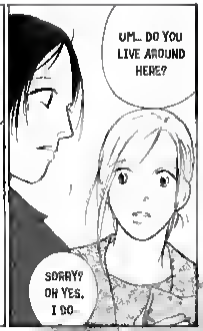
CENTIMETER MINUS 5

...WHO IS IT?
DINGDONG
303
HASUMI
SENSEI?
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT I DIDN'T HEAR FROM HASUMI YESTERDAY
.....WHO'S "SENSEI"?
I HEARD YOU DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL TODAY.
OGAWA?

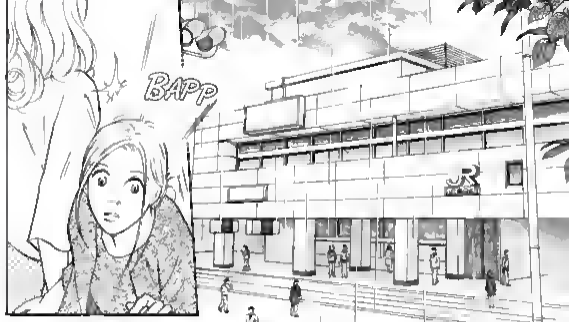
MR...
MY NAME. SANO MIHARU MY JOB: COLLEGE PROFESSOR.
YES.
MR. HASHIMOTO?
MR. HASUMI?
PRESENT
IS MR HAJIME HASUMI ABSENT?
MR HASUMI?

OH!

DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS IS?
EVERYTHING LOOKS EXACTLY ALIKE AROUND HERE...


UM... DO YOU LIVE AROUND HERE?
SORRY? OH YES, I DO.

AH
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE ASKING THAT!
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING?
PLAYING HOOKY FROM WORK THIS WEEKEND, AND NOT EVEN ANSWERING YOUR PHONE...
MA?!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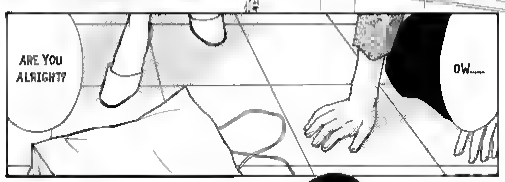
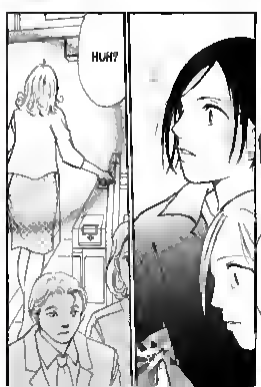

ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
OW.....


HUH?

YOU GOT A LITTLE WET FROM THE RAIN. HERE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH...

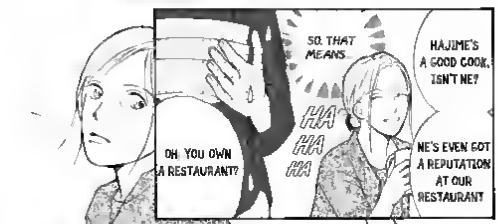
WAMBLE
MEAT? FISH?
OH, YEAH- PLEASE DON'T CRITIZE THE VEGGIES I PICK OUT--
OOH
DO YOU WANT ME TO GO BUY SOMETHING TO EAT?
I SAID I'M FINE...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT? SHOULD I HELP YOU?
AH
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU TASTE THE FOOD.
I CAN'T REALLY TASTE IT...
THOUGHT MAYBE YOU HAD COLLAPSED. SO I CLOSED THE STORE AND BROUGHT SOME FOOD.
YOU SURE LOOK HEALTHY FOR A SICK PERSON.
WHOA
WHOA
I HAD A FEVER. I COULDN'T EVEN GET UP OR ANSWER THE PHONE
SO THIS WOMAN
YOU HAVEN'T EARNED THE MONEY FOR YOUR DRIVING LESSONS YET!
FIGURING OUT
AND, YOU DON'T CAR FOR YOUR WORK?!
HOW COULD YOU ACT LIKE YOU DIED?!
I APOLOGIZE, SENSEI. SHE ASKED ME BEFORE.
OH NO I--
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME.
IS HASUMI'S MOTHER
NOW THAT I SEE YOUR TEACHER LIVES IN THE SAME APARTMENT BUILDING
MY MIND'S AT EASE NOW--.

HAJIME HAS NEVER EVER TOLD ME ANYTHING!
HEHHEH
ESPECIALLY ABOUT GIRLS...!
YOU LADY KILLER---.
ZOOM
ZOOM
NO. I'M NOT!

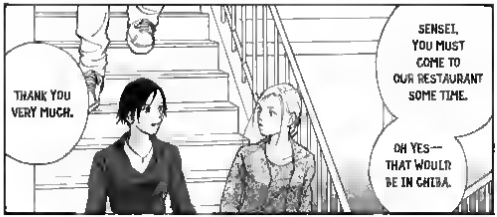
WHAT WOULD HE HAVE THAT HE COULD TELL HER? A MARRIED WOMAN? OR A SEDUCTIVE TEACHER
OF COURSE, HE COULDN'T TELL HER ABOUT THAT SORT OF THING...

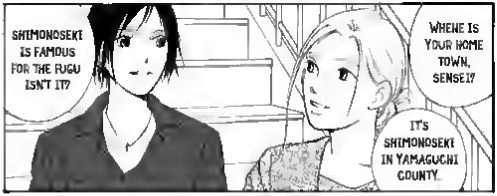
MA, THAT'S RUDE!
LAST YEAR, MY ENGAGEMENT FELL THROUGH
OH MY. BUT YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND...
ARE YOU MARRIED, SENSEI?
OH, NOT YET.

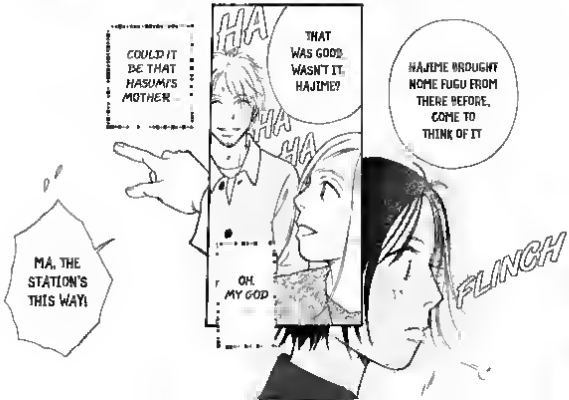
AH
OKAY. THEN GRAB SOME PLATES
WOW! IT'S GOOD!


OH. YOU OWN A RESTAURANT?
SO, THAT MEANS...
HA HA HA
HAJIME'S A GOOD COOK, ISN'T HE?
HE'S EVEN GOT A REPUTATION AT OUR RESTAURANT

NUH?
I BUMPED INTO HER AT THE STATION JUST BEFORE.
--- AH. A FRIEND OF MINE CAME BY...
MAYBE IT WAS OGAWA? THAT GIRL IN YOUR GROUP OF FRIENDS?
WHAT'S THIS?


SENSEI, YOU MUST COME TO OUR RESTAURANT SOME TIME.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
OH YES— THAT WOULD BE IN CHIBA.


SHIMONOSEKI IS FAMOUS FOR THE FUGU ISN'T IT?
WHERE IS YOUR HOME TOWN, SENSEI?
IT'S SHIMONOSEKI IN YAMAGUCHI COUNTY.


COULD IT BE THAT HASUMI'S MOTHER...
HA HA HA
THAT WAS GOOD, WASN'T IT, HAJIME?
HAJIME BROUGHT HOME FUGU FROM THERE BEFORE, COME TO THINK OF IT
MA, THE STATION'S THIS WAY!
OH, MY GOD
FLINCH

THAT SOUNDS RIGHT.
IN RETROSPECT, I REALIZE IT WAS A GOOD THING.

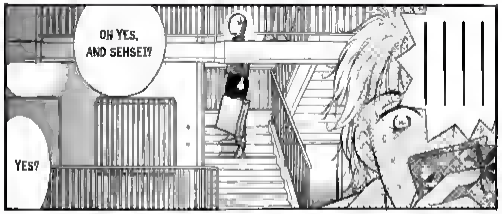
WELL, IF THINGS WERE GOING DOWN THE TUBES, IT'S MUCH BETTER THAT IT HAPPENED BEFORE YOU GOT MARRIED
(MOM)

FELL THROUGH?
THE ENGAGEMENT WAS CANCELLED LAST MINUTE.

I REALLY HAVE NO REGRETS

IT'S TRUE.

I'LL SEE YOU LATER, SENSEI—


OH YES, AND SENSEI?
YES?

HUH?

WELL. GOODBYE THEN, SENSEI~~)
GO HOME, MOM!!

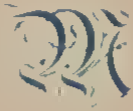
OH!
MY SON WILL WASH AND RETURN IT.
OH YES, SENSEI~~ THAT HANDKERCHEIF YOU LEHT ME.

OH!
HERE.

HASUMI!?
AH AH AH AH AH
YOU MEAN THE GIRL WHO OWNS THAT HANDKERCHEIF?
BUT YOU KNOW, THERE ARE SOME WOMEN WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO CHOOSE THEIR VEGETABLES.
NOW WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT, WHEN YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING OF HER?

SHE S—
A NICE PERSON, ISN'T SHE?
UH, MOM.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING BUT ME AND SENSEI, WE—
HEAVENS!
YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE IT, HAVE YOU?
PBTBT
EEYM!
IT SEEMS THAT HASUMI'S MOTHER
CERTAINLY WASN'T BORN YESTERDAY
PBT
PBT
PBT
WHAT DID MY MOM SAY TO YOU?
DIGITAL
MY DEAD HUSBAND WAS 4 YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME, TOO.
I...CAN'T SAY IT
JUST SAY IT
I WENT HOME DURING SPRING BREAK. I BROUGHT YOUR HANDKERCHIEF WITH ME BY ACCIDENT...
HASUMI.

WELL--. IT DOESN'T MATTER
IT BOTHERS ME IF WE CAN'T SEE EACH OTHER.
AND I'M RELIEVED WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER.
IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T LIKE HIM...



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CENTIMETER ZERO 6

WHO DID IT?
AND WHAT FOR?
WHEN YOU ARRANGE THINGS LIKE THAT IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING'S REALLY GOING ON BETWEEN US
UMM -
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
THIS WASN'T JUST SENT TO ME AND PROFESSOR WAKAMATSU IT WAS SENT TO ALL THE OTHER INSTRUCTORS, AS WELL!
OH BY ANY CHANCE...

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
PROFESSOR WAKAMATSU
MS. SANO
IS IT... TRUE THAT YOU'RE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH A STUDENT?
PARDON?
IT HAPPENED AT THE END OF APRIL, WHEN THE STUDENTS WERE ALREADY SETTLED IN
WARNING !!
PROFESSOR SANO MIHARU IS DATING A STUDENT EVEN THOUGH SHE IS ENGAGED.
THE ADDRESS CAME FROM A POPULAR WEBSITE, SO THE SENDER IS ANONYMOUS
THESE PHOTOS WERE MIXED IN WITH OTHER EMAILS THAT STUDENTS SENT WHILE TURNING IN THEIR ASSIGNMENTS.

KRASSHH...
W-WHAT WAS THAT?!
ARE YOU ALRIGHT SENSEI!?
YEAH...

BOLT
I HAVE TO C-CLEAN THE GLASS
IT'S DANGEROUS, SENSEI.
EEK

THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
THE WHOLE THING MEANS NOTHING.
THE LANDLORD AND THE NEIGHBORS HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT
A STRANGE MAN HANGING ABOUT THE APARTMENT BUILDING LATELY...

EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT I SEDUCED YOU RIGHT AFTER I WAS DUMPED...
OH...
SENSEI--?!
I'M SORRY...
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD COME TO MY PLACE ANYMORE.

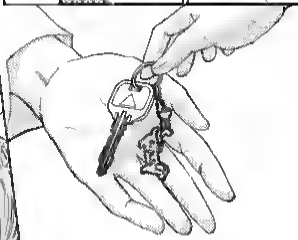
AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET A REPAIRMAN TO FIX IT TONIGHT
THERE'S THE DANGER OF ROBBERS AND OTHER STUFF WITH THAT BROKEN WINDOW
COME ON--- LET'S GO TO MY PLACE

OH YES! KEYS TO YOUR APARTMENT...
YEAH

I'LL SLEEP IN YOUR APARTMENT UNTIL IT'S FIXED.
YOU CAN SLEEP AT MINE.

HERE
THE KEY TO MY APARTMENT!

GOOD NIGHT, THEN!
UM...



YOU SEE? YOU CUT YOUR FINGER.
OUCH!
SUCK

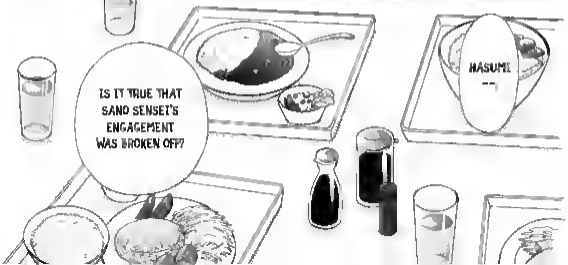
YOU REALLY DON'T SEEM TO BE THE OLDER ONE, SENSEI.

UM...
OH! WHERE DO YOU KEEP THE BANDAGES?
IN THAT DRAWER OVER THERE...

THE FIRST TIME I MET HASUMI WAS ON THE STAIRS OF OUR APARTMENT BUILDING
OH SORRY
AH, I'M SORRY

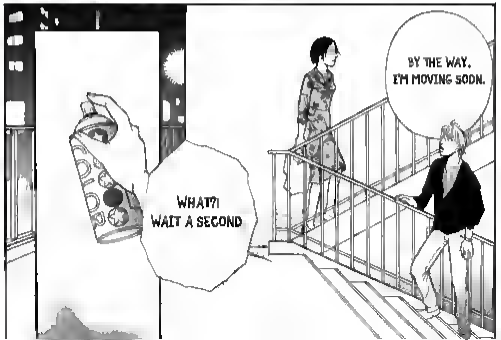
HE WAS REALLY SHOCKED TO SEE ME ON THE PODIUM.
HE MUST HAVE THOUGHT I WAS ALSO A NEW STUDENT

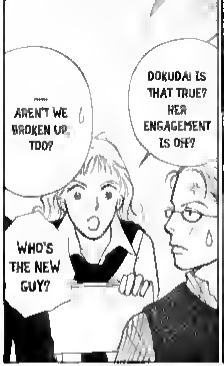
MAN
APA
RENTALS
APARTMENTS LARGE AND SMALL


IS IT TRUE THAT SANO SENSEI'S ENGAGEMENT WAS BROKEN OFF?
HASUMI --

YOU JUST MAKE SURE NOT TO STEAL MY UNDERWEAR.
WHAT IS IT, SENSEI?
WHY DOES HE KEEP CALLING ME "SENSEI"?
UH... UM... DON'T STEAL ANY OF MY LINGERIE.
IF THIS GETS ANY BIGGER, THE UNIVERSITY WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT SERIOUSLY.
YOUR BROKEN ENGAGEMENT WITH TANIHARA-- THAT'S BECAUSE OF THIS STUDENT, WASN'T IT?
I'M ALWAYS CAUSING HASUMI
IN UNIVERSITIES STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ARE BOTH ADULTS... IT REALLY DOESN'T MATTER TO ME WHAT THEY DO WITH THEMSELVES BUT THE UPROAR IS A PROBLEM.
IT'S ALL MY FAULT
MORE TROUBLE.

ARE YOU GOING HOME, SENSEI?
POSSI -BLY.
CAN YOU WALK A LITTLE AWAY FROM ME?
YOU'RE AFRAID OF THE RUMORS?


BY THE WAY, I'M MOVING SOON.
WHAT?! WAIT A SECOND


AREN'T WE BROKEN UP TOO?
DOKUDAI IS THAT TRUE? HER ENGAGEMENT IS OFF?
WHO'S THE NEW GUY?

WHA ..?!
IT WAS A GUY PROBLEM, SHE SAID...
YESTERDAY AT THE CLUB PARTY FOR NEW MEMBERS, I DRANK A LITTLE WITH SENSEI.

WHO?!

YIKES
SENSEI ...

I JUST STARTED TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR HASUMI BECAUSE I WAS AROUND HIM SO MUCH!

BUT WAIT--

AREN'T YOU GOING OUT WITH TOKUDA?

I KNEW THAT HASUMI WAS HAVING A FLING WITH A MARRIED WOMAN

AND AFTER THAT, HE WOULDN'T GO OUT WITH ANYONE. I THOUGHT THAT MEANT HE WAS STILL HURTING FROM THE AFFAIR

FROM THE TIME I STARTED COLLEGE.

YES... IT'S TRUE THAT I'VE SLEPT WITH HASUMI... BUT...

SENSEI----!!

COLON

YOU SHOULDN'T BE DOING THIS HORRIBLE THING.

AND THEN WHAT HAPPENS? I COME TO SEE HIM WHEN HE'S SICK, AND HE CALLS OUT "SENSEI!"

HASUMI!

OGAWA? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

OH, NO!

WAIT UP, SENSEI! LET ME TALK TO YOU FOR A MINUTE!

HEY!

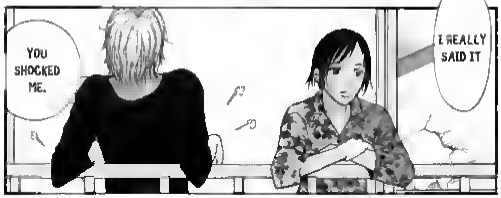
WAIT, OGAWA! ARE YOU THE ONE...?

DAMN!

...WITH WHOM?!

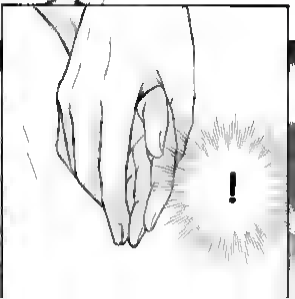
WITH YOU, HASUMI!

WERE YOU IN LOVE--


YOU SHOCKED ME.
I REALLY SAID IT

BEFORE THAT I'VE GOT TO GET A NEW JOB...
HA HA HA
YOU SAID YOU WERE MOVING SOON. WHEN DID YOU MEAN?

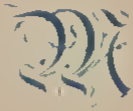
I DON'T REGRET IT EITHER.


!

IF YOU WANT TO BLAME SOMEONE. BLAME ONLY ME.
I PUSHED MYSELF ON HIM THE NIGHT MY ENGAGEMENT WAS BROKEN OFF.
I DON'T REGRET IT.

I SEE...
OGAWA...
LEFT

WHAT NOW...?!



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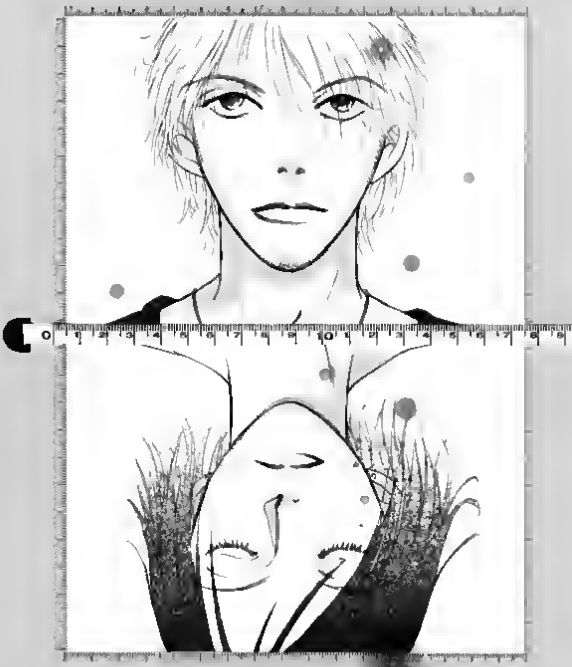
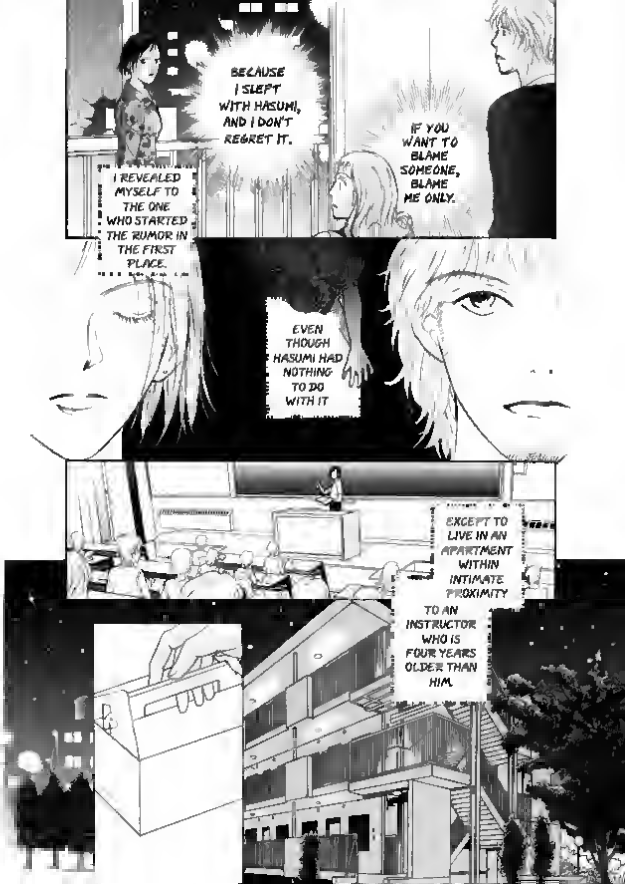
CENTIMETER MINUS 7



OH, I'LL GO BUY SOME BEER.
GIGGLE
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU, REIKO, OR TOMOMI FOR SO LONG! SINCE COLLEGE, RIGHT? WE USED TO GO SEE FIRE WORKS TOGETHER OFTEN.
ACCORDING TO ETSUKO, HE'S CUTE AND HOT LIKE A GOLDEN RETRIEVER---
ETSUKO?! ARGH!
WHAT ?!
YOU DOING WELL? HOW ARE THINGS GOING WITH THE YOUNGER GUY?
YA---?
MIHARU---?
HEY, GIRLS---, I FOUND A HOT GUY!!
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU GUYS INVITED ME TO SEE THE FIRE WORKS BECAUSE...
HEHEH...
... NOW THAT SHE MENTIONS IT WE DID RUN INTO HASUMI UNEXPECTEDLY WHEN I WAS ON MY WAY HOME...
WARNING!!
EVERYONE WAS BUSY WITH THEIR OWN PROBLEMS.
PROFESSOR SANO MIHARU IS DATING A STUDENT EVEN THOUGH SHE'S ENGAGED.
WHILE I WAS STILL PONDERING BEFORE WE KNEW IT THE NEW SEMESTER HAD BEGUN SUMMER HAD SNUCK UP ON US.
SO BUSY THAT THE GOSSIP ABOUT AN INSTRUCTOR'S ILLICIT AFFAIR WITH A STUDENT HAD JUST ABOUT VANISHED
WOW...
PRETTY---.

WOW
OH!
OH.
!!
CRA-ES
I'M THE ONE WHO PUSHED MYSELF ON HASUMI THE DAY MY ENGAGEMENT WAS BROKEN--
TANIHARA?!
YOU ALL SEEM TO BE GETTING ALONG WELL AS ALWAYS. HUH?
WHERE?! TAKE US THERE, MIHARU!
MM. BUT I THINK I MUST HAVE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE----
WAIT A SEC--REIKO!
HERE YOU GO.
EXCUSE ME--TWO MORE DRAFT BEER, PLEASE--!
TOMOMI!
SENSEI--?!
--YEAH, HE'S MY STUDENT
SENSEI? IS HE TALKING ABOUT... YOU MIHARU?

WOW. I HAVEN'T HAD THESE IN A LONG TIME!
HERE. I GOT THIS FROM MY PART-TIME JOB.
TIRAMISU?
WE...WE'LL. BESIDES THAT, HAVE YOU EATEN DINNER YET?
OH! MAYBE I SHOULD MAKE YOU WHAT I LEARNED TO MAKE TODAY.
THEY WERE POPULAR--
IN ELEMENTARY ---
IN HIGH SCHOOL.


BECAUSE I SLEPT WITH HASUMI, AND I DON'T REGRET IT.
IF YOU WANT TO BLAME SOMEONE, BLAME ME ONLY.
I REVEALED MYSELF TO THE ONE WHO STARTED THE RUMOR IN THE FIRST PLACE.
EVEN THOUGH HASUMI HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT
EXCEPT TO LIVE IN AN APARTMENT WITHIN INTIMATE PROXIMITY
TO AN INSTRUCTOR WHO IS FOUR YEARS OLDER THAN HIM.

ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE OVER YOUR MOTHER'S RESTAURANT?
AND NEXT YEAR, YOU'LL BE BUSY LOOKING FOR A FULL-TIME JOB.

NOT TELLIN--

WELL, YOU SEEM A LITTLE BITTER, HASUMI...
IS IT POSSIBLE YOU'RE JUST WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE?
DRIP DRIP
WHY SHOULD I BE?
HEY, HASUMI...

IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE WORKING AT A KEBAB PLACE LAST TIME...
ARE YOU WORKING AT AN ITALIAN RESTAURANT THIS TIME?

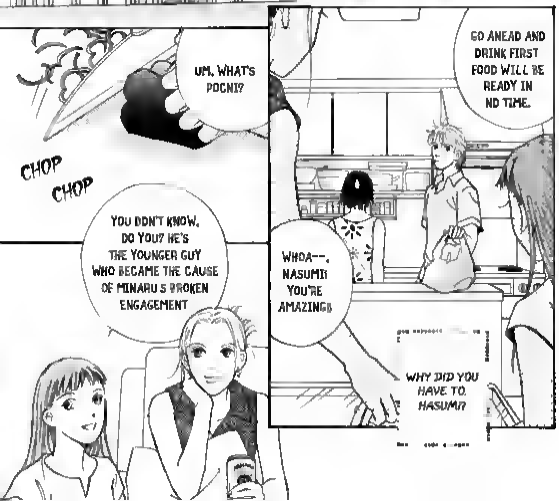
I WAS GOING TO SAY HI, BUT THEN YOU RAN OFF SOMEWHERE.
HERE-- LET ME TAKE THIS TO THE TABLE.
OH... NANA...YEAH THAT WAS A REAL SHOCKER.
THEY'RE YOUR FRIENDS?
YEAH FROM COLLEGE...
SIZZLE - SIZZLE -
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED THAT LAST TIME.

HASUMI.
YOU SEEM TO BE BUSY THIS SUMMER DOING NOTHING ELSE BUT WORK AT YOUR JOB
BEER

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE MEANT I NEVER ASKED AFRAID OF WHAT HE MIGHT SAY
HASUMI... HE DID SAY THAT HE DIDN'T REGRET IT
YES
ZZZ

I MEAN... WHY DID YOU CHOOSE ENGLISH STUDIES, SENSEI?
HOH... NEVERMIND.
HM?
SENSEI, THAT MAN...
I LIKE STUDYING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE...
I FIGURED IT OUT AFTER GOING ABROAD
AFTER I CAME BACK I FELT I WANTED TO TEACH SOMETHING IN ENGLISH THAT WAS WHEN I REALIZED...
DID THE IDEA JUST COME TO YOU IN A FLASH?
HOW DID IT HAPPEN?
ZZZZ
HEY, HASUMI...
HASUMI?

WHOA!
SENSEI ---
OH... YEAH... I FELL---.
KLICK
EXCUSE ME~
HOKU TEI
ほくほく亭
HUH?
GOT IT. WELCOME.
ONE TODAY'S SPECIAL LUNCH BOX, PLEASE---



* A NICKNAME FOR A YOUNGER GUY

BUT, FIRST THINGS FIRST IF THERE'S NO FUTURE WITH THEM, I CAN'T VERY WELL SHOW THEM TO MY PARENTS CAN I?
YEAH! THEY DO THAT ALL THE TIME--
WELL, WHENEVER I GO OUT WITH YOUNGER CO-WORKERS, THEY ALWAYS JUST WAIT FOR ME TO PAY
BUT FOR ME, THAT'S NOT ENOUGH-
PLUS THEY MIGHT KEEP SAYING "I LIKE YOU... I LIKE YOU" AND THAT'S ENOUGH FOR THEM.
WHAT'S WRONG?
HASUMI?
CLAK...
IF IT TURNS OUT BADLY THE GIRL WILL END UP WONDERING IF IT'S HER FAULT.
YOU CAN'T BE SURE IF HE HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE OR NOT.

HERE ARE THE PICKLED DRIED TOMATOES.
OH, YEAH OKAY
AH
BUT, TANIHARA SAID...
THAT WASN'T ME. HE MADE UP THAT CONCLUSION ON HIS OWN..
NO--
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? ISN'T IT NICE?
YOU CAN TALK ABOUT NEW HIT SONGS WITH YOUNGER PEOPLE AT WORK GET TO KNOW NEW PEOPLE...
DATING YOUNGER MEN IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR ME---
AH--
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU IMPLYING NOW?!!
BUT, POCHI WAS ALL YOU TALKED ABOUT WHEN YOU WERE DATING YOUR EX.
HMM?!
YOU CAN TALK ABOUT NEW HIT SONGS WITH YOUNGER PEOPLE AT WORK. GET TO KNOW NEW PEOPLE...

HASUMI!

I WAS WRONG THE THING THAT HAD BECOME A RUMOR. THE THING THAT I HAD VOWED "TO PROTECT"

THAT THING WASN'T "MY CURRENT JOB"

AND IT WASN'T EVEN "MYSELF"

UH-

UM DON'T TAKE IT TO HEART. THE THINGS MY FRIENDS SAID

KWAM

MIHA-RU?

OH--- I'M GOING OUT TO SAY GOODBYE-- I'LL PICK UP SOMETHING AT THE CONVENIENCE STORE ON THE WAY BACK

KWAM

HASUMI...

SHE'S REALLY INTO HIM. ISN'T SHE--?

SHE'S REALLY NOT BEING HONEST ABOUT THIS--

WAIT!

MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE RUMORS WAS THE LIE I KEPT TELLING MYSELF

TEEHEE...

I'LL CONFESS THAT I'M UPSET BECAUSE I FINALLY LEARNED THE TRUTH.

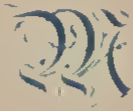
SERIOUSLY!
SLAAAP
YOU'RE SO KIND TO ME SO...
IF THAT'S SO, YOU SHOULD STOP CALLING ME "SENSEI"!
I'M SORRY, SENSEI. I JUST HAD THE WRONG IDEA.
EEP -
NO NO
THE CONVENIENCE STORE WAS REALLY CLOSE, HUH?
3 F
2 F
AH!
MIHARU?

IT WAS "HASUMI."
I DON'T TAKE IT TO HEART, AND THERE'S NO REASON TO DO SO.
I MEAN, I KNOW YOU DON'T THINK OF ME IN ANY SUCH WAY, SENSEI.
I KNOW.
AH! I'M SORRY. JUST FORGET WHAT I SAID.
WHAT AM I SAYING TO YOU SENSEI...

IT'S NOT THAT "JUST ANYONE WILL DO"

CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
IS BREAKFAST NOT READY YET?!
POCHI--. MIHARU--.
SILENCE--.
I'M NOT A PET
TAP
YOU OVER THERE! NO FLIRTING!

GRAB
I KNOW I KNOW I'M GOING NOW
THIS TIME, IT'S DIFFERENT
SENSEI--.



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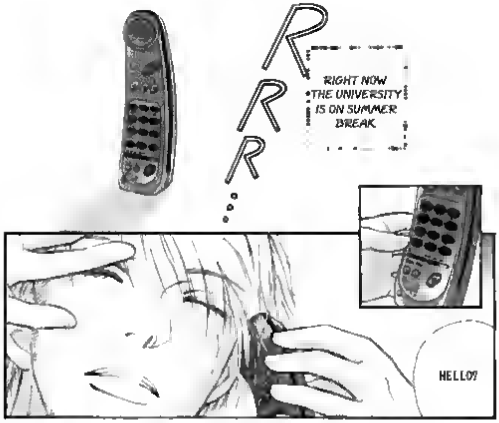
CENTIMETER MINUS 8

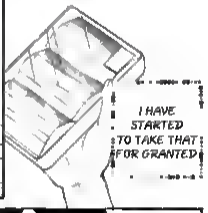
WHAT'S WRONG, HASUMI?

FOR ME?

WHY IN HEAVEN'S NAME IS THERE A MAN IN YOUR ROOM SO EARLY IN THE MORNING?!
OH! DAD?!!!


RRR
RIGHT NOW THE UNIVERSITY IS ON SUMMER BREAK.
HELLO?

EEP
OUR STUDENT TEACHER RELATIONSHIP IS ALSO ON SUMMER BREAK.
YES.



*O-bon (O bon) or only Bon (bon) is a Japanese Buddhist holiday to honor the departed spirits of one's ancestors.

BRING ME A KNIFE!!
DURING THE SPRING BREAK
I MIGHT GET SLICED INTO THREE FILLETS BY YOUR FATHER...
HA HA HA
WELL, MY FAMILY'S IN THE FISHING BUSINESS.
IT'S BEEN FISH AND FISH ONLY SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL.
I JUST DON'T WANT TO HAVE REGRETS.
IT'S OKAY!
SANO
WHAT?!
DAD'S IN THE HOSPITAL?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
MOM SAID YOU'D FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH IF YOU CAME HOME.
NATIONAL HANMON HOSPITAL
BM 7
SANO NARUO
MIHARU, YOU'RE BACK!
FOOP
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, DAD?
HA HA
I'M FINE, I'M FINE
DAD... DON'T TELL ME YOU CALLED ME FROM THE HOSPITAL.
THEY'RE MAKING A BIG DEAL OUT OF NOTHING I THROW OUT MY BACK, AND THEY TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT ME IN THE HOSPITAL.

ME, TOO
I MISS YOU
HASUMI
YEAH?

I'M SO RELIEVED THAT IT'S NOT SERIOUS.
MIHARU... WE HAVE TO TALK.
MOM.
HASUMI?
MIHARU? IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT WITH YOUR FATHER?
WELL, HE MUST BE ANGRY... ABOUT ME.
WHAT?!

DID THEY OBJECT HARSHLY..
TO ME…?
NUH-UH.
WELL. IF THAT'S TRUE.. I'M GLAD.
YOU USUALLY DON'T ACT LIKE THIS.
DO YOU DISLIKE SOMEONE CLINGING TO YOU?
NO.
AHEM…
IT'S JUST THAT I CAN'T REALLY COOK..

I'M HOME.
WELCOME HOME.
SO, MIHARU.
SIZZLE SIZZLE
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN AT HOME?
NOTHING.

THINGS THAT YOU CAN'T TASTE ANYWHERE BUT THERE, IN THAT SPECIFIC PLACE.
I WANT TO LEARN NOT JUST JAPANESE CUISINE, BUT ALSO DIFFERENT CUISINES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
YOU WANT TO STUDY?
I SUPPORT YOU.
HM? WELL...
AHAHA
IS THAT WHY YOU WENT INTO THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT?
ALWAYS.
AHH!!!
JUST WONDERING WHAT KIND OF PERSON YOU'LL BE IN THE FUTURE.
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME?
I DUNNO...
YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE OVER YOUR MOM'S RESTAURANT AREN'T YOU?
AND I HAVE A LOT I WANT TO LEARN, TOO.
SHE'S A TOUGH OLD BIRD IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'S GIVING ME THE RESTAURANT ANY TIME SOON.
OH, NOTHING.

I HATED GOING TO THE AQUARIUM WITH MY DAD WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
YOU KNOW,
NAHA
"THAT ONE WOULD BE GOOD AS FRIED NUGGETS," HE'D SAY
EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE WAS LOOKING, HE'D SAY "THAT ONE'S TOO BIG TO TASTE GOOD" AND SAY THAT NO MATTER HOW YOU COOK IT IT WOULDN'T TASTE GOOD
MY FATHER WORKED IN THE FISH MARKET YOU SEE?
EVEN LOOKING AT THE FISH IN THE AQUARIUM, HE THOUGHT OF THEM AS "FOOD"

NASUMI!
NUNNY NUNNY!
IT'S SUMMER AND WE'VE NEVER GONE ON A REAL DATE BEFORE.
WELL—
WHAT IS IT? WHY'D YOU SUDDENLY DRAG ME TO THE AQUARIUM?
WOW...
AND ALSO— I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE AQUARIUM IN SO LONG!

ピンポーン
DINGDONG
SANO
FROM HARUME
SORRY! I'LL BE OUT ALL DAY TOMORROW AT MY PART TIME JOB.
MY SISTER'S NEW BOYFRIEND? (THE ONE WHO'S MY AGE?)
EH?
IS YOUR FATHER HOME?
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MY SISTER, SHE WENT BACK TO TOKYO.
DIDN'T MY SISTER TELL YOU?
PBT PBT PBT
NO...
MIHARU!
DID YOUR FATHER TELL YOU TO QUIT YOUR JOB AND COME BACK HOME?
SO, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DATE A LOSER LIKE ME?
MIHARU?!
I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD LIKE YOU SO MUCH.
I LIKE YOU

YOU'RE GOING BACK TO SHIMONOSEKI, AREN'T YOU?

AM I SO UNTRUSTWORTHY?

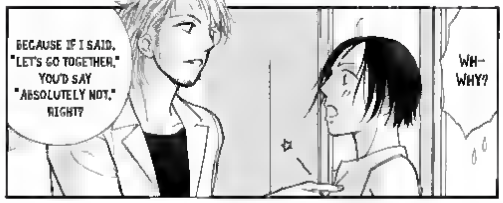
THE UNIVERSITY'S FOUND SOMEONE TO TAKE MY PLACE, AND I FOUND WORK BACK AT HOME.

MY FATHER'S SICK. MY FAMILY NEEDS AN EXTRA PAIR OF HANDS TO CARE FOR HIM.

AND EVEN AFTER THAT, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE MY MOTHER WITH MY BROTHER.

EVEN IF I TOLD YOU YOU COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT

YOUR DAD SAID HE WAS GOING BACK TO WORK TOMORROW


BECAUSE IF I SAID, "LET'S GO TOGETHER," YOU'D SAY "ABSOLUTELY NOT," RIGHT?
WH-WHY?

I DON'T WANT TO BE TOLD ABOUT FISH BY A WOMAN WHO DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO PICK HER VEGETABLES
HASUMI YOU MIGHT THINK THAT WAY BECAUSE YOU'RE YOUNG

TRUST ME.
IF WE CREATE PHYSICAL DISTANCE. I AM DONE FOR.
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT I THINK.

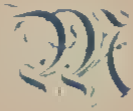
HE KNOWS HIS OWN DISEASE.
"METASIZED BONE CANCER," RIGHT?
THERE'S A LOT OF THINGS I WANT TO TEACH THE YOUNG PEOPLE.
I DON'T WANT TO WASTE TIME IN THIS HOSPITAL.

I WAS PREPARED TO BE KILLED BY HIM.
BUT IT TURNED INTO AN ADVISING SESSION ON MY FUTURE
HASUMI--- YOU SAW MY FATHER?!

I'M GOING TO YOUR HOME TOWN FOR TRAINING AFTER GRADUATION

WHOA
SENSEI, I'M HERE FOR MY GRADUATION BLESSING. TOO.
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING...
YOU REALLY CAME...
EVEN AT THE TIME OF MY FATHER'S FUNERAL.
DURING VACATION HE WROTE ME LETTERS FROM THE MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES HE WORKED IN.
SANO-SENSEI!
Institution for Middle/High School College Entrance
ME, TOO!
SO,
WHAT ???
WILL YOU GIVE ME A CONGRATU -LATIONS KISS?
THAT'S GREAT!
ME, TOO!
I GOT IN!

WHAT IS THIS?!
END



Manga Mannie

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